

submit proposed or established reporting and recordkeeping requirements to OMB for review and approval, and to publish a notice in the Federal Register notifying the public that the Agency has made such a submission. The information collection activity involved with this program is conducted pursuant to the mandate given to the United States Information Agency under the terms and conditions of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256. USIA is requesting approval for a three-year extension as well as approval for revisions made to the Office of Arts America, Performing Arts Division, United States Information Agency, Application for Panel Rating under OMB control number 3116-0165 which expires August 31, 1995. The proposed revisions are suggested to enhance clarity of required information. Estimated burden hours per response is one (1) hour. Respondents will be required to respond only one time.

DATES: Comments are due on or before July 20, 1995.

COPIES: Copies of the Request for Clearance (OMB 83-1), supporting statement, transmittal letter and other documents submitted to OMB for approval may be obtained from the USIA Clearance Officer. Comments on the items listed should be submitted to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for USIA, and also to the USIA Clearance Officer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Agency Clearance Officer, Ms. Jeannette Giovetti, United States Information Agency, M/ADD, 301 Fourth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, telephone (202) 619-4408; and OMB review: Mr. Jefferson Hill, Office of Information And Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Docket Library, Room 1002, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, telephone (202) 395-3176.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public reporting burden for this collection of information (Paper Work Reduction Project: OMB No. 3116-0165) is estimated to average one (1) hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the United States Information Agency, M/ADD, 301

Fourth Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547; and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Docket Library, Room 10202, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503.

Title: Office of Arts America Performing Arts Division United States Information Agency Application for Panel Rating.

Form Number: IAP-90.

Abstract: The USIA form IAP-90 facilitates submission of tapes and supporting materials to the U.S. Information Agency for artistic panel evaluation of artists being considered for USG financial support as a cultural presentation, and/or inclusion in USIA's quarterly listing of performers touring privately, sent to all American Embassies for possible facilitation assistance.

Proposed Frequency of Responses: No. of Respondents—500, Total Annual Burden—500.

Dated: June 14, 1995.

Rose Royal,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 95-14952 Filed 6-19-95; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974, New Routine Use Statements Amendment of System; Notice

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice; New routine use statements.

SUMMARY: As required by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a(e), notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is adding two new routine uses to, and is amending other parts of, a system of records.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments, suggestions, or objections regarding the new routine uses. All relevant material received before July 20, 1995, will be considered. All written comments received will be available for public inspection in room 315, Information Management Service, 801 I St., NW, Washington, DC, 20001 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays until July 31, 1995. If no public comment is received during the 30 day review period allowed for public comment, or unless otherwise published in the **Federal Register** by VA, the routine uses included herein are effective July 20, 1995. Other changes to

the system of records notice contained herein are effective upon publication (June 20, 1995).

ADDRESSES: Written comments concerning the new routine uses may be mailed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (045A4), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Muenzen, Information Resources Management Coordination and Field Support Division, Chief, Office of Information Technology (20M52), Veterans Benefits Administration, NW., Washington, DC 20420 (202) 273-6947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: VA has published final rules (59 FR 47082 (9-19-94)) amending its regulations to add sections 38 CFR 14.640 through 14.643 to provide for expanded remote access to computerized claims records by individuals approved by the Department to represent claimants before VA in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for veterans' benefits.

Those regulations provide that VA will disclose information concerning how these representatives use their access privileges in two circumstances for which routine uses do not currently exist. First, if VA is considering whether to revoke the individual representative's access privileges generally, VA will notify the representative's employer. Second, if the representative is licensed by a governmental entity, such as a state bar association, VA will report the conduct of the representative to that entity after revocation of access privileges if VA concludes that the conduct which was the basis for revocation of access privileges merits reporting.

Consequently, VA is adding the following two new routine uses as part of the implementation of the remote access regulations.

First, if VA is considering whether to deny or suspend or revoke an individual's access privileges generally, VA may then notify the representative's employer or any recognized service organization with which such a representative is affiliated. Second, if the representative is licensed by a governmental entity, such as a state bar association, VA will report the conduct of the representative to that entity after revocation of access privileges if VA concludes that the conduct which was the basis for revocation of access privileges merits reporting.

Both routine uses satisfy the compatibility requirement of subsection (a)(7) of the Privacy Act. VA will gather this information for the purposes of determining whether it should grant,

deny, suspend or revoke an individual's remote access privileges to claimants' automated claim records generally, as well as ensuring the individual's continued compliance with the agency's requirements for exercise of the remote access privileges. This information concerns the qualifications and conduct of the individual, that is, the appropriateness of the individual to have remote access privileges to represent beneficiaries and claimants.

State licensing entities, such as bar associations, routinely monitor and enforce the individual member's compliance with the rules of conduct which are intended, at least in part, to protect the public. Additionally, under the rules of these organizations, these persons normally have a responsibility to protect and preserve the confidentiality of information concerning their clients.

VA's proposed routine use authorizing disclosures to state licensing entities would allow VA to provide those state licensing entities with information which is relevant to their enforcement activities concerning compliance with those rules. VA gathered the information, at least in part, to help ensure the confidentiality of the VA's information on people who are, in essence, the clients of the individuals who are licensed by the state governmental entities. The purposes are sufficiently similar that the disclosure satisfies the compatibility requirement of subsection (a)(7) of the Privacy Act.

Veterans service organizations and other entities represent veterans on claims matters. To do so effectively, they must have access to the confidential claims records of those veterans. Part of their acceptance within the community they serve is a confidence on the public's part that they and their accredited representatives and employees will zealously protect the privacy of their clients. If veterans perceive that the confidentiality of their records will not be honored, it will limit the effectiveness of these organizations in representing their clients. Thus, in order to effectively represent veterans, they are concerned about ensuring that individuals whom they use to conduct their representational activities act in a manner consistent with the organization's goal of preserving the confidentiality of their clients' claim records.

As we stated in regard to the routine use authorizing disclosure of records to state licensing entities, VA gathered the information about remote access users, at least in part, to help ensure the confidentiality of the VA's information

on it claimants who are, in essence, the clients of the organization which uses the individual representatives and claims agents to prosecute the veterans claims. The purposes are sufficiently similar that the disclosure satisfies the compatibility requirement of subsection (a)(7) of the Privacy Act.

VA has determined that release of information under the circumstances described above is a necessary and proper use of information in this system of records and that the specific routine uses proposed for the transfer of this information is appropriate.

VA is also amending the storage policies and practices for the records in this system of records to reflect the policies and practices applicable to claimants' representatives and attorneys who are granted access to automated claimants' records.

An altered system of records report and a copy of the revised system notice have been sent to the House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(r) and guidelines issued by OMB (59 FR 37906, 37916-18 (7-25-94)).

The proposed routine uses will be added to the system of records entitled "Veterans and Beneficiaries Identification and Records Location Subsystem—VA" 38VA23 published at 49 FR 38095, August 26, 1975, and amended at 41 FR 11631, March 19, 1976, 43 FR 23798, June 1, 1978, 45 FR 77220, November 21, 1980, 47 FR 367, January 5, 1982, 48 FR 45491, October 5, 1983, 50 FR 13448, April 4, 1985.

Approved: June 5, 1995.

Jesse Brown,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Notice of Amendment to System of Record

In the system of records identified as 38VA23, "Veterans and Beneficiaries Identification and Records Location Subsystem—VA," published at 40 FR 38095, August 26, 1975, and amended at 41 FR 11631, March 19, 1976, 43 FR 23798, June 1, 1978, 45 FR 77220, November 21, 1980, 47 FR 367, January 5, 1982, 48 FR 45491, October 5, 1983, 50 FR 13448, April 4, 1985, is amended by adding the information and revising the entries as shown below:

38VA23

SYSTEM NAME:

Veterans and Beneficiaries Identification and Records Location Subsystems—VA

SYSTEM LOCATION:

Records are maintained at the VA Data Processing Center, 1615 East Woodward Street, Austin, TX, 78722; VA Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420; VA Records Processing Center, PO Box 5020, St. Louis, MO 63115 and at Neosho, MO.

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ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

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18. The name and address of a prospective, present, or former accredited representative, claims agent or attorney and any information concerning such individual relating to a suspension, revocation, or potential suspension or revocation of that individual's privilege of remote access to Veterans Benefits Administration automated claim records, may be disclosed to any recognized service organization with which the accredited representative is affiliated, and to any entity employing the individual to represent veterans on claims for veterans benefits.

19. The name and address of a former accredited representative, claim agent or attorney, and any information concerning such individual, except a veterans' name and home address, which is relevant to a revocation of remote access privileges to Veterans Benefits Administration automated claim records may be disclosed to an appropriate governmental licensing organization where VA determines that the individual's conduct which resulted in revocation merits reporting.

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POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STRONG, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

The basic file is on automated storage media (e.g., magnetic tapes and disks), with backup copies of the information on magnetic tape. Such information may be accessed through a data telecommunication terminal system designated the Benefits Delivery Network (BDN). BDN terminal locations include VA Central Office, regional offices, VBA Debt Management Center, some VA health care facilities, Department of Defense Finance and Accounting Service Centers and the U.S. Coast Guard Pay and Personnel Center. An adjunct file (at the Records Processing Center in St. Louis, MO) contains microfilm and paper documents of former manual Central Index claims numbers registers, partial

files of pensioners with service prior to 1930, personnel with service between 1940 and 1948 with VA insurance, and partial lists of other Armed Forces personnel indexed by service number. A duplicate of the microfilm is also located at VA Central Office.

Remote on-line access is also made available to authorize representatives of claimants and to attorneys of record for claimants. A VA claimant must execute a prior written consent or a power of attorney authorizing access to his or her claims records before VA will allow the representative or attorney to have access to the claimant's automated claims records. Access by representatives and attorneys of record is to be used solely for the purpose of assisting an individual claimant whose records are accessed in a claim for benefits administered by VA.

RETRIEVABILITY:

Information is retrievable by the use of name only, name and one or more numbers (service, social security, VA claims file and VA insurance file), name and one or more criteria (e.g., dates of birth, death and service), number only, or initials or first five letters of the last name with incorrect file number.

SAFEGUARDS:

Access to the basic file in the Austin DPC (Data Processing Center) is restricted to authorized VA employees

and vendors. Accredited service organization representatives, VA-approved claims agents and attorneys acting under a declaration of representation so that these individuals can aid veterans in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims under the laws administered by VA are provided read-only access.

Access to BDN data telecommunications network is by authorization controlled by the site security officer who is responsible for authorizing access to the BDN by a claimant's representative or attorney approved for access in accordance with VA regulations. The site security officer is responsible for ensuring that the hardware, software and security practices of a representative or attorney satisfy VA security requirements before granting access. The security requirements applicable to access to automated claims files by VA employees also apply to access to automated claims files by claimants' representatives or attorneys. The security officer is assigned responsibility for privacy-security measures, especially for review of violation logs, information logs and control of password distribution, including password distribution for claimants' representatives.

Access to the computer room where the basic file is maintained within the DPC is further restricted to authorized

VA employees and vendor personnel on a "need to know" basis and is protected from unauthorized access by an alarm system, the Federal Protective Service, and VA security personnel. As to access to Target terminals, see Safeguards, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Rehabilitation Records—58VA21/22. Authorized terminals with access to the VBA Benefits Delivery Network are located only at VA regional offices, VA medical facilities, VA Central Office, VBA Debt Management Center, National Cemetery System facilities, Railroad Retirement Board through the Chicago Regional Office, the National Personnel Records Center, the U.S. Army Reserve Components Personnel and Administration Center at St. Louis, MO, and at remote sites nationwide. The adjunct file is accessible for official use only by personnel assigned to Systems Development Service (20M4), VA Central Office, Washington, DC, and the Administrative Division at VA Records Processing Center, St. Louis, MO.

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SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

Director, VBA Systems Development Service (20M4), VA Central Office, 810 Vermont Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20420.

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